



The Launch Rack

Published by the Garden State Spacemodeling Society
National Association of Rocketry Section No. 439 Since 1982
New Jersey's Oldest Model Rocket Club

January-February 2012

Happy New Year to All

With this issue we begin a New Year and a new schedule. As mentioned in the last issue we are going to a bi-monthly newsletter. At least that is the plan but that will really count on you, the member and your contribution to it in the form of photos, articles, plans, kit reviews, etc. It is hoped that you will like getting it more often.

Some Unfinished Business of 2011

(The unfinished business is a report on the last Sport Launch of the year held on December 21. The photos and report are from Mickey Spain.)

As soon as the launch pad and electronics were set up, the windless day became windy and cool but even in these conditions, not a rocket was lost. The last launch of 2011 turned out to be a good launch. While only 4 members turned out for the launch there were plenty of flights that took place. In preparation for the Snowball Open being conducted in January of 2012, **Mickey Spain** and **Jim Zindle** tested some of their designs for the competition which include an A Superroc Duration and a D Egg Loft Altitude.



Jim flew several scratch built models and also broke out his Estes *Eliminator* which is always has a great straight flight. Mickey Spain, motor modified Quest *Courier* handled the D motor just fine and returned the egg safely during both test flights. **Peter** and his young son **Alex Nein** flew some sport flights which included their set of *Berthas*, Big to Baby. Jose from Heavenly Hobbies was also in attendance which is great to see and he had plenty of last minute gifts available for any rocket enthusiast. It is great to have a vendor on site. **Mickey Spain** also flew the new Estes *Hyper Bat* with it set up in a B motor stage configuration. The choice in using a streamer recovery over a parachute ensured the safe return of the model in the windy conditions. 2011 was a great year. I have personally enjoyed the conversations, idea sharing and advice given to me as I returned to a hobby I loved in my youth. I thank all of the GSSS members for creating a wonderful environment to fly.

President's Message



(Editor's Note: In our last issue we introduced our newly elected Officers including Arnold Klein. Arnie is the Sixth President of our Club. His first column gives us an idea of his goals.)

As the new President of GSSS I see a continuation of what we have strived for during the past years:

1) To continue to maintain as much as possible absolute consistency in operation of the sport launch schedule including the high safety standards.

2) To continue to monitor and maintain and update the launch equipment.

3) To continue to promote membership and act as mentors to new Rocketeers.

The Launch Rack January-February 2012

The Launch Rack is the official publication of the Garden State Spacemodeling Society and is published for the enlightenment and entertainment of the membership. It is published quarterly.

You are invited to send your articles, photos, letters to the editor, etc. for publication. This publication is by and for the membership.

Articles appearing in the newsletter may be used by other publications provided proper credit is given to the author and this newsletter.

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Countdown 5-4-3-2-1...

(A Calendar of Upcoming Events)

Note: The following have been approved by the Somerset County Parks Commission for our Sport Launches. These are subject to weather conditions and decision of the Safety Committee. Cancellations will be posted on our website the morning of the launch.

01-28-2012 – “Challenger” Memorial Launch
02-25-2012 – Sport Launch: 1000-1300
03-24-2012 – Fun Test 1: Predicted Duration
04-28-2012 – Sport Launch: 1000-1500
05-26-2012 - Fun Test 2: A Streamer Duration
06-23-2012 – Sport Launch: 1000-1500
07-28-2012 - Fun Test 3: 1/2A Parachute Duration
08-25-2012 – Sport Launch: 1000-1500
09-29-2012 – Fun Test 4: A Helicopter Duration

10-27-2012 – Sport Launch: 1000-1500

11-24-2012 – Fun Test 5: Open Spot Landing

12-22-2012 – Sport Launch: 1000-1500

For the newer members the “Challenger” Memorial Launch is held each year to honor those astronauts that have died furthering our space program. You are invited to bring your space shuttle rockets. We will also take a moment to read the names of all (those of the United States and other countries) astronauts giving their all.

Fun Test 1: Predicted Duration is open to any single-staged model rocket. The purpose is to accurately predict the duration that your model will achieve. The contestant must predict the duration in seconds of the model rocket’s flight. It is recorded on your flight card and given to the Contest Director. The minimum duration prediction allowable is 30 seconds. **No practice flights permitted.**

Fun Test 2: A Streamer Duration is open to any single-staged model rocket using a streamer for recovery. The purpose of this even is to achieve the longest duration time using an **A Class Motor (1.26 – 2.50 Newton-Seconds)**. Streamer can be cloth, plastic film, or paper whose shape is basically rectangular. The length-to-width ratio is 5 to 1 or greater. Streamer must stay attached to the model rocket to be an official flight. **Only one flight allowed.**

Some New Business for 2012

The new business has to do with our first Sport Launch of 2012 on January 28. Though the attendance was not up to par there were some very nice flights.



The first official flight was by **Fred Taverni** with his V2.

Ye Ole Editor, **Jack Sarhage** begin his new year of flying with his

tried and true *Tri-F-O*. **Arnie Klein**, our newly elected President was an early arrival with the launch equipment. Sadly we must report that his *Flying Saucer* did not survive its first flight of the year. But later on he had another successful flight with his egg-lofter as seen on the following page.

Jim Zindle chad-staged his *Snitch* flying saucer ala Arnie Klein shown lifting off on the next page.



Left is Arnie's egg loft and on right is Jim's chad staged flying saucer. Both caught at lift-off.

One of the joys of the hobby/sport is to see new folks enjoying model rocketry as a family activity. Introduced in our "Welcome to Our New Members" column is **The Jason Shaw Family**. They had with them some really fine looking and interesting models as you can see in the following photo.



I cannot identify all the rockets they have prepared and ready for launch but, standing behind the launch rack are **Sawyer, Isadora, Jason, and Alex**. I probably do not have that right. If not, please forgive me.

One of the most interesting flight and certainly deserving the Prang Award was that of **Mickey Spain**. I did not get the before shot but the next two show you what happens when the reloadable motor



does not work properly. While Mickey went chasing the errant nose cone with parachute attached. Arnie and Jack when searching for the body. That was located with about 4-5 inches of the front stuck into the soggy field as seen on the left.

And the usual result is shown on the right.....a soil sample.

Apparently the motor was kicked at some point in the flight as we found it several feet from the rocket.



All in all it was a great first launch of the year. We hope to see more of you on February 25. Oh, by the way the launch window for the winter months will be 1000 to 1300. Subject to change by the RSO and LCO.

NAR Membership

"If you are not already a member of the National Association of Rocketry we urge you to join".

When you received your Welcome letter as a new member or the Thank You letter when you renewed your membership in GSSS the above sentence appeared as part of it.

In the latest issue of *The Electronic Rocketeer* (Issue 43) a report on the current number of NAR members was 5154. The goal for 2012 is to reach a total of 5200 members by year's end. All that is needed is just 46 new or renewing members.

If you are not an NAR member why not be one of the 46 needed.

Go to the website of the National Association of Rocketry for all the details on how to become a member and the benefits of being one. And Thank You!

Welcome to Our New Members

The New Year is young but for GSSS it has started out as a good one. We have five, that's right **five** new members to introduce to you.

From our neighboring state to the West is **Edward K. Fritch** from Topton, Pennsylvania. And we have from Chatham, NJ first settled in 1710 the **Jason Shaw Family**. Along with Jason are his children, Junior members, **Alex, Isadora** and

Sawyer. Be sure to welcome them and extend a helping hand.

Model Rocket Trivia

Once again **Ken Montanye** correctly answered the trivia question in the Winter Issue. NARAM-1 was held at Denver, CO and the Contest Director was G. Harry Stine. G. Harry was instrumental in starting Model Rocketry as we know it today. He also formed the first model rocket company; Model Missiles, Inc.

Ken's prize? An Estes *Viking* model rocket kit.

Due to a lack of interest we are discontinuing the Model Rocket Trivia Contest.

Plan of the Issue



We would like to include a plan of a model rocket in each issue. Whether we do or not is mainly up to you. So, you are invited, encouraged to send in your latest design.

The one we have on the next page was designed by **Dr. Bob Kreutz**. Called *The*

Tempest and is perfect for Streamer or Parachute duration events. The parts are all CMR (Competition Model Rockets) and may be hard to find. However, with a little thought you can use Estes parts for your model. Due to slight reduction when making it fit the page the full size patterns made not be exact so use the measurements given as a double check. It was designed for piston launch but you can add launch lugs. In the next issue we will show you a piston launcher.

This plan first appeared in Issue No. 33 dated February 1987 of *The Launch Rack*.

Competition Rules Revision Process

(The following information is provided to help keep our NAR members that enjoy competition on how to take part in the rule making process.)

The annual process for proposing changes to the rules in the NAR Model Rocket Sporting Code ("Pink Book") is defined in Appendix section F of the Pink Book. This year we have initiated a new online forum area for the rules change proposals (RCP) to be reviewed, commented on and finally voted on. You must sign up on the forum page to post comments and to be able later to vote on the 23 proposals that have been submitted for this year through the online submission form.

See the FAQ at http://www.nar.org/pdf/RCP_FAQs.pdf to learn how to log in and use this forum. Only current NAR members can log in.

You are allowed to make one comment per proposal, and each comment is limited to 100 words. **Jim Fuller** is the moderator of this forum and manager of the annual rules revision process. He will review every comment before it is posted for everyone else to see. Comments must be posted by March 15, 2012. Details for an upcoming electronic ballot done through this forum for you to vote on the proposals will be communicated after the comments are posted.



The above "cover" was postmarked at Kennedy Space Center on August 2, 1971 the First Day of Issue for the stamps shown. They commemorate a decade of Space Achievements. The "cachet" is of the Apollo 15 Mission to the moon. The mission began on July 26, 1971, and concluded on August 7. At the time, NASA called it the most successful manned flight ever achieved. Commander was **David Scott** and the Lunar Module pilot was **James Irwin**. CMS was named "Endeavor" the LM "Falcon."

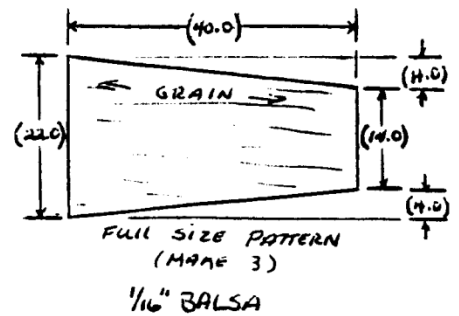
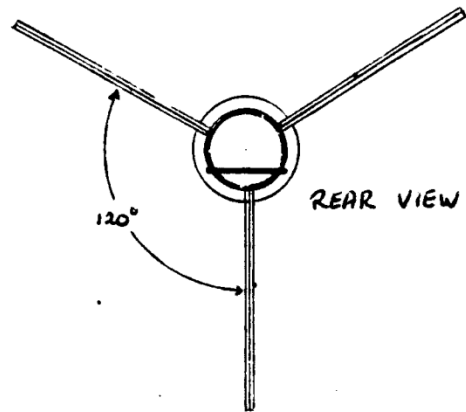
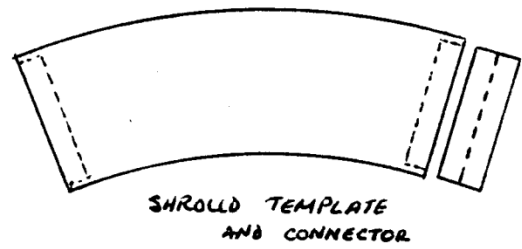
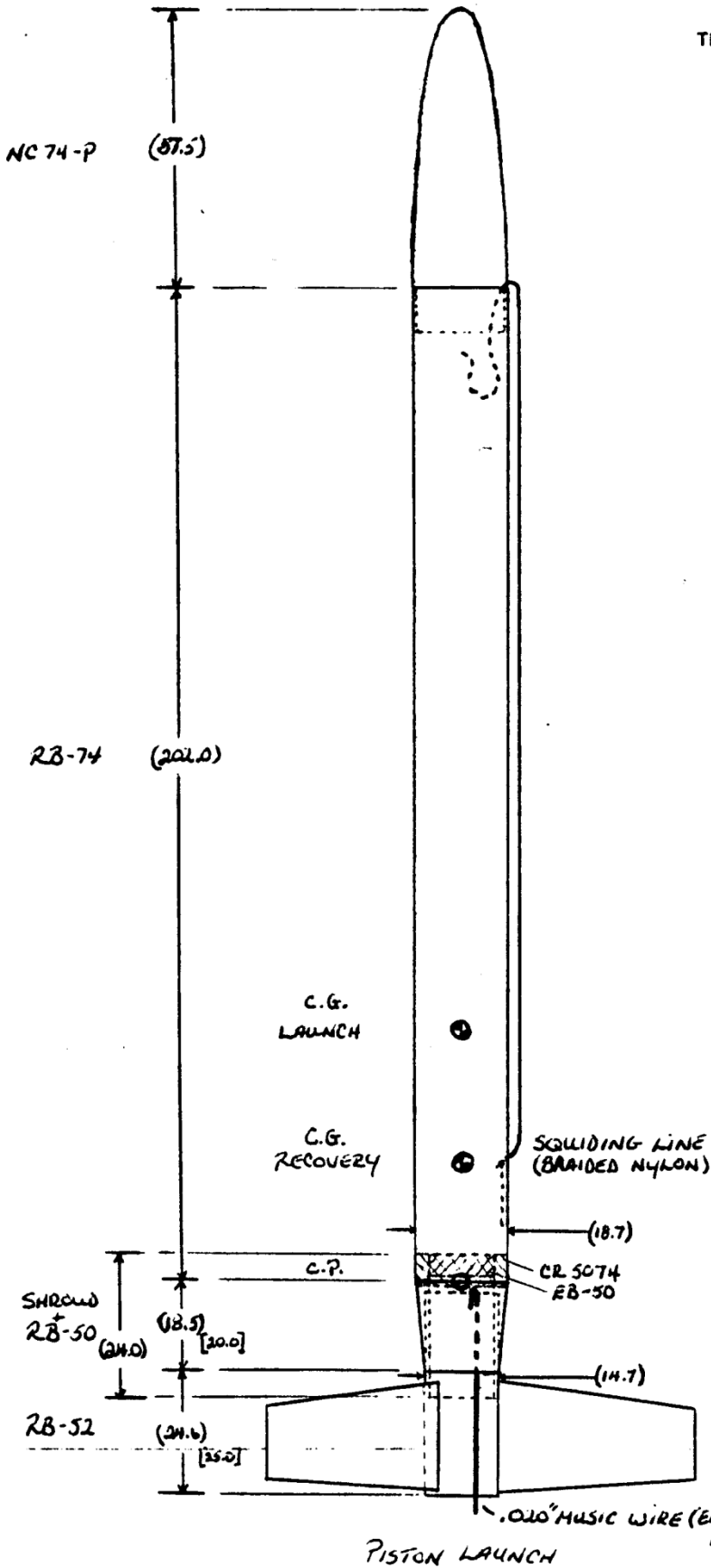
When two stamps with different pictures are attached it is called a "Se-tenants".

THE
"TEMPEST"

Dr. BOBI KREUTZ

NAR: 35100

ALL PARTS BY C.M.R.



SCALE: .75/1
 ALL MEASUREMENTS: MILLIMETERS (MM)

Parting Shots



The *BatRock* takes flight. **Fred Taverni** is caught hooking up his flight. We have ignition and then there is the “splash down”. As you can see the field was a little damp in spots.

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